



Marines Win Three of SECDEF's 2015 Environmental Awards

Camp Lejeune, Camp Butler and Twentynine Palms have each been honored with one of the Secretary of Defense's (SECDEF) prestigious Environmental Awards for 2015. The Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards recognize individuals, teams, and installations that distinguish themselves in supporting mission readiness through environmental acumen.

The three awards won by MCICOM installations are:

- ***Environmental Quality, Overseas Installation:*** Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Japan, supported mission readiness and enhanced environmental quality with effective environmental management and maintained stakeholder involvement.
- ***Sustainability, Non-Industrial Installation:*** Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, exceeded Department of Defense (DoD) goals in energy reduction and water conservation and aggressively applied renewable energy solutions with an innovative and collaborative sustainability program.
- ***Environmental Restoration, Installation:*** Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, made tremendous progress towards investigating and cleaning up 49 sites during the award period by maintaining collaborative relationships with regulatory agencies and the local community.

"Their efforts strengthen the department's position as an environmental leader by integrating cost-effective environmental management with our national defense mission, thereby saving critical resources and helping to keep our country safe through sustained mission readiness," stated Frank Kendall, Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

"We are extremely pleased and honored to have captured three of these coveted awards for outstanding efforts in multiple environmental areas over the past year, this is a gain of one over what we received in 2014," said MajGen Juan M. Ayala, Commander, MCICOM. "We know there is a strong focus on preserving and conserving our environment across all Marine Corps bases and installations around the world. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to successful efforts being recognized at Camp Lejeune, Camp Butler and Twentynine Palms."

Since 1962, DoD has honored individuals, teams, and installations for outstanding environmental achievements and innovative environmental practices and partnerships. Military services and defense agencies submit nominations for each of the nine award categories. A diverse panel of judges representing federal and state agencies, academia, and the private sector select the winners.